

Amendments to Claims

Cancel claims 1-32.

33. (Original) A method for heat treating a multiple component nonwoven fabric comprising a first polymeric component and a second polymeric component, the first polymeric component having a melting point or softening point that is lower than the melting point or softening point of the second polymeric component, comprising heating the nonwoven fabric to a temperature that is greater than about $(T_m - 40)^\circ\text{C}$, where T_m is the melting or softening point of the first polymeric component, but less than $(T_m - 10)^\circ\text{C}$, while the nonwoven fabric is under a tension in any one direction that is between 0 and 52.5 N/m.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 33 wherein the fabric is heated to a temperature that is greater than about $(T_m - 30)^\circ\text{C}$.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 34 wherein the fabric is heated to a temperature that is less than $(T_m - 15)^\circ\text{C}$.